



# News Release

## Arizona Department of Public Safety

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Department of Public Safety to Take Active Role in State Fire Prevention.**

The Arizona Department of Public Safety has announced a proactive, zero tolerance program designed to have an impact on the severe fire hazards the State is currently facing.

Chief Jack G. Lane, DPS Highway Patrol Division, has announced that enforcement efforts will be stepped up by all DPS Officers who observe motorists or pedestrians who violate the States littering statute by tossing their cigarette butts out onto the roadway instead of utilizing their ashtrays. Chief Lane stated that this will be a zero tolerance program, dubbed "***Stow it, don't throw it***" designed to protect life, property and the State's wildlife. "The State cannot tolerate reckless individuals who place us in a position of danger by being so careless with their smoking materials. We see this as a proactive means for DPS to take in protecting our State, the public we serve, and our firefighters, all of whom are placed in jeopardy by these careless individuals."

The program will utilize the current littering statute which is a class 3 misdemeanor calling for fines of up to \$500. It is suspected that many of the current brushfires, especially those alongside roadways, are caused by careless individuals who don't utilize their vehicle ashtrays.

The fire prevention campaign will be included along with other traffic safety enforcement programs that DPS has announced during this holiday weekend.